

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-19 are rejected.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-12 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann II et al. (US Patent No. 5,577,186) in view of Massachusetts Department of Education.

The office action states that Mann teaches “presenting a generic application interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type...” and refers to column 4, lines 56-63.

In referring to the text at column 4, lines 56-63, it becomes apparent that the interface that is generic is an application interface, such as an application programming interface, or API, not a generic *user* interface. The text states, “Because the system of the present invention provides a generic interface to any *computer application software*, the system may be used...”

Further in the text, it is obvious that the software disclosed in Mann is to be used with a particular computer application program. The term computer application software and program are defined at column 6, lines 1-4, as being a specific program. This is further supported by the disclosure in Mann. When a user starts up a particular application, the software disclosed in Mann has an interface with the particular computer program product that is started and then, “*At this point, the product logo is displayed...*” See column 9, lines 2-4. See also, column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 2, “Then, the computer application software interface means 48 allows the user to *practice within the computer application software...*”

Therefore, Mann does not disclose a system in which, “a generic application user interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of

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software application to a user..." as is claimed in claims 1, 14, 17 and in amended claims 8 and 19.

The addition of the Massachusetts Department of Education standards does not address this deficiency, nor does the combination of references teach the method or systems as claimed. Neither reference, nor the combination thereof, teach a system for use with 'a core curriculum subject matter.' Contrary to the statements of the office action, graphics design is not a core curriculum subject matter.

Claims 3-5, 9 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann II et al. in view of Massachusetts Department of Education and further in view of Cook et al. (US 5,727,950).

Claims 3-5, 9, and 13-15 depend from claims 1, 8 and 14, respectively. These claims inherently contain all of the limitations of that claim. As discussed above, the prior art does not teach, show nor suggest all of the limitations of the base claim, much less the further embodiments of the dependent claims. The addition of Cook to the combination does nothing to overcome the deficiency discussed above. It is therefore submitted that claims 3-5, 9 and 13-15 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

Claim 16 requires, "user interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of software application to simulate the software application having a region to allow the student to provide the input..." As discussed at length above, Mann, the Massachusetts Department of Education, nor Cook, teach or suggest this, nor does the combination of references. It is therefore submitted that claim 16 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

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No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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